

Notes of 1/12/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee
Plainfield Energy Committee
By: Rich Phillips

Attending:

Anne Miller, John Morris, Saul Gresser, Dan Chodorkoff, Lawrence Black, Rich Phillips, Ed Hutchinson, Bob Atchinson

Convene: 6:30 PM

Adjoin: 8:15 PM

Business:

1) Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Grant

East Montpelier, Marshfield and Plainfield have applied for and have been offered this grant. This grant involves household visits by volunteers to perform an energy review and to provide and install CFLs, water heater blankets, pipe insulation, and provide but not install digital setback thermostats. Volunteers will be trained collectively. The timeframe is very tight. We need to identify volunteers by the end of the first week in February and complete the visits by April 15, 2009. (See Paul Markowitz e-mail of 1/12/09)

- a) We decided to set the Training for the weekend of February 7/8 (OK with Paul Markowitz but still need to coordinate with Dave)
- b) We decided to use all the following to try to identify volunteers and program participants:
 - i. Field Notes, contacts to people offering to help from previous efforts (Energy Fair, Marshfield Survey, Survey Volunteers),
 - ii. Posters,
 - iii. Contacts with Church leaders/members concerning people who could use energy help,
 - iv. Newspaper publicity early on (Paul has agreed to follow up on this)
 - v. Mailing to each household (Paul can cover the cost but can't do the work- we need to reevaluate whether this is worth it and who will do it.
- c) We estimated each volunteer might commit to 3 days work including the training and accomplish 5 visits. . This assumes teams of two and four visits per 8 hours. The number we do will depend on the number of volunteers.
- d) It was decided that Bob and Anne would develop the text we will use to explain the program to potential volunteers and participants, which will be used in Field Notes and throughout the advertising. Subsequently we realized we needed to complete this by Thursday for Field Notes so Rich will take the first cut and send around.
- e) We will coordinate on the project through e-mail since we won't have a meeting until after the volunteer training.

2) Climate Change Grant----ANR \$12,000

This grant is for municipalities and non-profits to implement projects reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Applications for the first round are due by February 2, 2009. The Marshfield Selectboard has already expressed an interest in pursuing the grant to improve the attic insulation and insulate the concrete walls at OSC and add attic insulation at the Town Garage. The Committee felt these projects were very reasonable uses of the grant and decided to defer to the Selectboard and not propose other uses of the grant.

3) Local Generation Options Project

Dan and Saul reported they have met a couple of times and decided rather than a broad feasibility study that we should focus more on first phase implementation of a project since available hydro sites have been partially evaluated already and wind sites also have been partially evaluated. Rich relayed a conversation with John Warshaw to the effect that any earlier hydro evaluations were of little value because for the depth of information that must now be generated for the regulatory process. John also advised we would never get a hydro project in Marshfield through the regulatory process.

From the standpoint of wind we discussed the unlikelihood of developing a substantial community wind project within Marshfield. Marshfield's Class 2 wind sites (as low a class as would likely be economical for such a project) are on mountaintops (Hardwood? Lord's?) that are several miles from three-phase power, which would be necessary for a larger scale project. Towers at these locations would be quite visible and likely unacceptable to many residents and the DRB

Given these concerns we discussed focusing the evaluation on community and private solar and small-scale wind. The small-scale wind would be very localized near homes and off ridgelines to reduce the visibility concerns. These systems may only handle a few houses each and would be built in Class 1 wind areas after some wind measurements to determine what the likely payback period would be.

- 4) We will look into the potential purchase of wind anemometers for loan out through the NEGEF grant originally awarded for electric meters. We will still buy the eight Kilowatt meters but not the whole house meters and use the residual and money generated by the Energy Fair for hopefully two wind anemometers to loan out. We think there will be a demand for these units by homeowners. Rich will look into this.
- 5) Next meeting we will discuss how to share the responsibilities of Chair. Rich is attaching the breakdown of work he now does and members are to see what they might be willing to take on
- 6) Next meeting is Monday February 9, 2009 at 6:30 PM in Plainfield. Bob and Rich will work out the meeting agenda and posting issues with the Town Clerks and assure we have a room.